

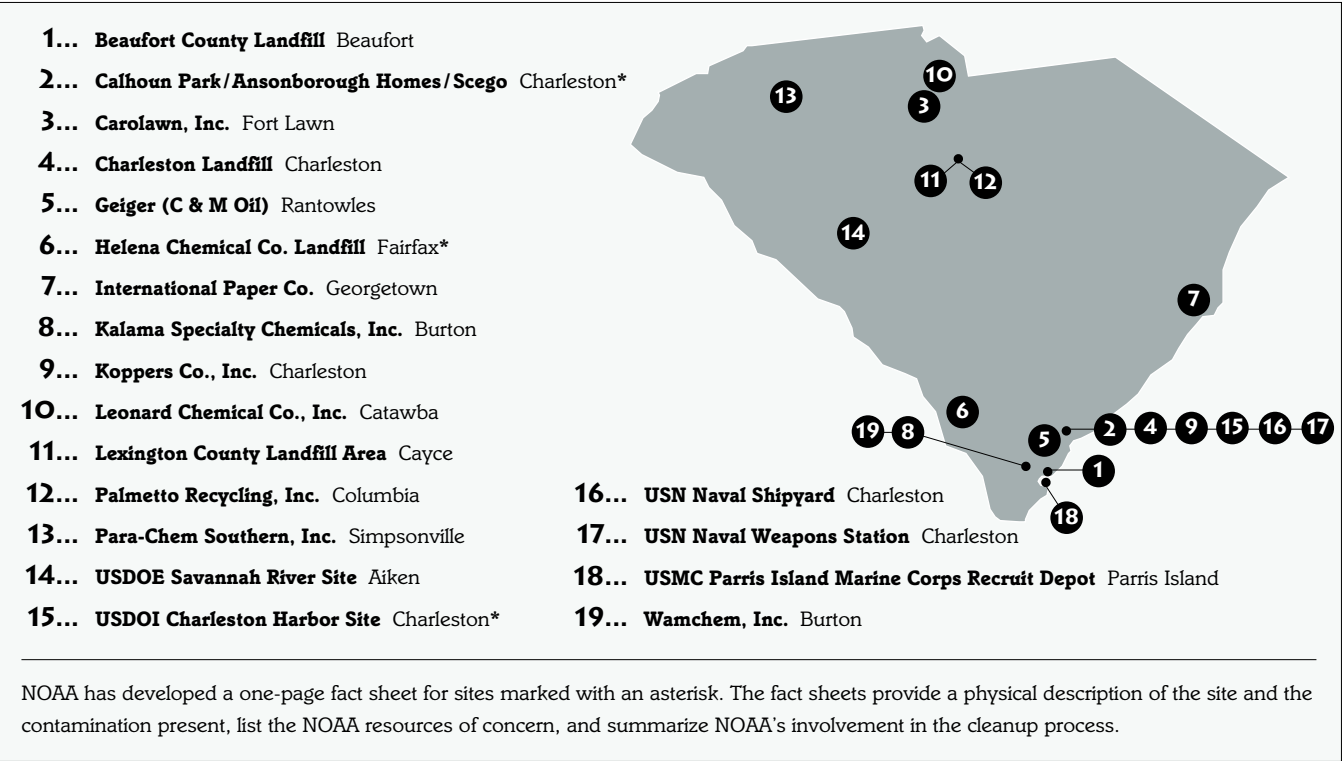
# NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program

## South Carolina Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

### CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

**NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce** as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle. NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing projects to restore injured resources and habitats in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of South Carolina, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefit of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.



### NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN SOUTH CAROLINA...

**NOAA trust species in South Carolina** include anadromous species such as Atlantic sturgeon, American eel, blueback herring, American shad, striped bass, and the endangered shortnose sturgeon. Non-anadromous species include flounder, sea trout, and silver perch. Commercially important invertebrates include eastern oyster, hard clam, blue crab, white shrimp, and brown shrimp. Additionally, bottlenose dolphins are present all year in South Carolina's waters.

### NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

**NOAA CRCs provide technical expertise** to EPA on resources and ecological risk assessment, mitigative measures,

and cleanup strategies to ensure protection of NOAA trust resources. Federal and state trustees' early involvement and coordination in the scoping of ecological risk assessments ensures that assessments and the entire remedial process adequately evaluate the risk to natural resources. Designing a cleanup that protects natural resources as well as human health is a cost-effective and efficient way to address the threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of effort and litigation. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery and/or restoration of coastal and marine resources.

### MILITARY SITES IN SOUTH CAROLINA...

**South Carolina is dotted with 219 military installations** and formerly used defense areas. Currently, 15 of these installations are investigated under Superfund (CERCLA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs. The nature of defense-related activities involves chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent in the environment. In South Carolina, military-related contaminants of concern include VOCs, PCBs, PAHs, heavy metals, pesticides, and solvents. NOAA's input is needed now to ensure cleanups that are protective of coastal natural resources as well as human health. NOAA offers technical expertise and a neutral perspective valued by both the military and the local public.

### AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN SOUTH CAROLINA...

**The NOAA CRC program works to protect and restore** natural resources throughout South Carolina. South Carolina's shallow continental platform allows extensive fresh and brackish marshes to occur in estuarine areas. These wetlands support diverse and abundant populations of NOAA trust resources, providing nursery and adult habitat. The Charleston area has several Superfund sites located adjacent to the Cooper and Ashley Rivers. NOAA is currently involved in the ecological risk assesment and cleanup of the the former Koppers Wood Treatment facility, Calhoun Park / SCE&G site, and the former Charleston Naval Shipyard.

The Savannah River is also a concern for NOAA since it provides adult habitat, spawning, and nursery grounds for NOAA trust species, particularly the American sturgeon and adult habitat for several commercially important species, such as American shad, striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, and the endangered shortnose sturgeon. The Savannah River Plant site, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, produces nuclear materials. Site activities are the source of conventional and radioactive contaminants that have potentially contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments that are eventually transported to the Savannah River. The NOAA CRC program is working with EPA to develop studies to determine the extent of contamination and potential risk to natural resources.

### FYI...

**For more information** about NOAA's CRC program in South Carolina, please contact:

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